

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 1-9 with the following amended paragraph:

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FIG. 7 shows a 2-branch (binary) tree which corresponds to the 32-bit address path table shown in FIG. 6 and which is created by the method described above. As shown in the figure, ~~a long string NS1~~ a long string NS1 of nodes with neither a branch nor a "\*" is created. The following describes the quick search method in which only one of left and right pointers of a node connects to the next node and the nodes to which path entries are not mapped are removed.

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